JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
MICHAEL ZIDOR			C.Os Nunez, Qwadara Thomas, Blanche Carney, Louis Giorla, Michael McGinnis, James McGowan, Kathy			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)	or many have been		
Oxman Goodsta	adt Kuritz PC, 1518 Walnut Street, S	uite				
	19102; 215-665-9999					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		FIZENSHIP OF PR (For Diversity Cases Only)		Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)	
U.S. Government Plaintiff	X 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		en of This State	F DEF	PTF DEF incipal Place 4 4	
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2		
			en or Subject of a eign Country	3 Soreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	1 80	PRFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of S BANKRUPTCY	orther statutes	
110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgmen 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Personal Injury Product Liabilit 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical	RY	5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act MMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application 840 Trademark 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Black Lung (923) 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	375 False Claims Act 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	in One Box Only) smoved from 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	☐4 Rein:	stated or 5 Transferenced Another	r District Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 14th Amendment Section 1983 Brief description of cause: 14th Amendment Section 1983 of the Civil Right			,		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	ON D	EMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER						
DATE Jun 13, 2025	S GNATURE OF A	TORNEY	OF RECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	7/1)	7		-		
RECEIPT # A	MOUNT APPLYING IFE	Ρ //	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

Industrial Correction Center Place of Accident, Incident, or Transaction: Philadelphia

RELA	TED CASE IF ANY: Case Number: Judge:					
1.	Does this case involve property included in an earlier numbered suit?		Yes			
2.	2. Does this case involve a transaction or occurrence which was the subject of an earlier numbered suit?					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent which was the subject of an earlier numbered suit?						
4.	4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus petition, social security appeal, or pro se case filed by the same individual?					
5.	5. Is this case related to an earlier numbered suit even though none of the above categories apply? If yes, attach an explanation.					
I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the within case is / is not related to any pending or previously terminated action in this court.						
Civil L	itigation Categories		1			
<i>A</i> .		ty Jurisdiction Cases:				
beyone	2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Wage and Hour Class Action/Collective Action 6. Patent 7. Copyright/Trademark 8. Employment 9. Labor-Management Relations 10. Civil Rights 11. Habeas Corpus 12. Securities Cases 13. Social Security Review Cases 14. Qui Tam Cases 15. Cases Seeking Systemic Relief *see certification below* 16. All Other Federal Question Cases. (Please specify): fy that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the remedy sought in this cased the parties before the court and does / does not seek to bar or mandate s	tatewide or nationwide enforcement of	of a state or			
federal law including a rule, regulation, policy, or order of the executive branch or a state or federal agency, whether by declaratory judgment and/or any form of injunctive relief.						
<u> </u>	ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (CHECK ONLY ONE	BOX BELOW)				
I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2(3), this case is not eligible for arbitration either because (1) it seeks relief other than money damages; (2) the money damages sought are in excess of \$150,000 exclusive of interest and costs; (3) it is a social security case, includes a prisoner as a party, or alleges a violation of a right secured by the U.S. Constitution, or (4) jurisdiction is based in whole or in part on 28 U.S.C. § 1343.						
None of the restrictions in Local Civil Rule 53.2 apply and this case is eligible for arbitration.						
NOTE:	A trial de novo will be by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.	·				

OXMAN, GOODSTADT, & KURITZ BY: JOSEPH S. OXMAN, ESQUIRE IDENTIFICATION NO: 207956 1518 Walnut Street Suite 1010 Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 665-9999 Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MICHAEL ZIDOR

Plaintiff

VS.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS
NUNEZ, QWADARA THOMAS,
COMMISSIONER BLANCHE
CARNEY, DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL McGINNIS, CHIEF OF
OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN,
CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY
McGOWAN and THE
PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF
PRISONS

Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff, Michael Zidor, by way Complaint against defendants says:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Michael Zidor, is a citizen of the United States and is currently residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2. Defendant Correctional Officer Nunez is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a corrections officer for the Philadelphia

- Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- Defendant Corrections Officer Qwadara Thomas is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a corrections officer for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- Defendant Commissioner Blanche Carney is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was the warden for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- 5. Defendant Deputy Commissioner Louis Giorla is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a command supervisor for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- 6. Defendant Chief of Operations Michael McGinnis is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a command supervisor for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- 7. Defendant Chief of Staff Kathy McGowan is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a command supervisor for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- 8. Defendant Director of Operations James McGowan is an individual who is a resident of Pennsylvania, and always relevant to this action, was a command supervisor for the Philadelphia Department of Prisons, 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.
- 9. Defendant, Philadelphia Department of Prisons, was and still is a Philadelphia County domestic entity duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Pennsylvania with a principal business address of 7901 State Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 10. The Court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit because the action is brought pursuant to the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.
- 11. The Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C § 1367 over plaintiff's claims arising under State law, including but not limited to violations of his State Constitutional rights against defendants for intentional infliction of emotional distress because this claim is so related to the claims within the Court's original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article 3 of the United States Constitution.
- 12. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391, as the claims at issue arose in this judicial district.

COMPLAINT GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 12. The above paragraphs are repeated and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.
- 13. On or about June 22, 2023, at 10am, the plaintiff was inside his jail cell at the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center with his cellmate Mark Johnson.
- 14. Both plaintiff and Mark Johnson were secured and locked in their cell.
- 15. While the plaintiff was asleep, his cell door was opened, and seven other inmates entered his cell and stabbed the plaintiff in his back which caused his lung to collapse.
- 16. The cell door was buzzed open by an inmate who illegally and without authorization got into the prison control room which was completely unoccupied by the above-mentioned correctional guards.
- 17. The plaintiff laying bleeding in his cell after the above-mentioned attack for over twenty minutes before and correctional officers came to give the plaintiff aid.

- 18. The plaintiff was immediately taken to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.
- 19. The plaintiff was admitted to the hospital for over five weeks.

COUNT I

PLAINTIFF MICHAEL ZIDOR vs. DEFENDANTS CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS NUNEZ, QWADARA THOMAS, COMMISSIONER BLANCHE CARNEY, COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL McGINNIS, CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY McGOWAN and DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO SAFETY/FAILURE TO PROTECT

- 20. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference.
- 21. Defendants, identified above, knew of and deliberately disregarded the excessive risk of harm to the Plaintiff's health and safety posed by the inmate assault specifically when on June 22, 2023, Plaintiff was violently attacked after inmates were able to illegally and without authorization got into the prison control room which was completely unoccupied by the above-mentioned correctional guards and open the plaintiff's cell door in which defendants deliberately permitted the plaintiff to be beaten and disfigured.
- 22. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan deliberately and recklessly failed to properly classify and segregate the assailant inmates, through their classification policies and procedures, who defendants knew posed an imminent danger to the plaintiff.
- 23. The defendants Nunez, Thomas and Williams deliberately and or recklessly failed to protect the plaintiff by failing to maintain security in the control room which allowed the plaintiff to be attacked by inmates.
- 24. As a result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference, through failing to protect him physically and their failure to properly classify the plaintiff, Michael Zidor sustained severe and significant physical injuries including being repeatedly punched, kicked and

stabbed by the seven inmate assailants causing a punctured lung, cracked left back scapula, multiple permanent scars, a permanent hole in his left lung and respiratory dysfunction.

25. As a result of the inmate assault, Plaintiff is entitled to relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

COUNT II PLAINTIFF MICHAEL ZIDOR vs. DEFENDANTS CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS NUNEZ, QWADARA THOMAS, COMMISSIONER BLANCHE CARNEY, COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL McGINNIS, CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY McGOWAN and DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN FAILURE TO INTERVENE

- 26. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference.
- 27. Defendants, identified above, had an affirmative duty to intervene on behalf of the Plaintiff, Michael Zidor, whose constitutional rights were being violated in their presence while Plaintiff was being assaulted by other inmates.
- 28. Defendants Nunez and Qwadara Thomas failed to intervene to prevent the unlawful assault of Plaintiff by the inmate assailants and did nothing to prevent, protect or intervene in the attack and assault of the Plaintiff.
- 29. The plaintiff was repeatedly kicked in his head and stabbed by the inmate assailants causing a punctured lung, cracked left back scapula, multiple permanent scars, a permanent hole in his left lung and respiratory dysfunction which defendants Nunez and Qwadara Thomas failed to stop.
- 30. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan deliberately and or recklessly failed to properly have procedures to classify and segregate the assailant inmates who the defendants knew posed an imminent danger to the Plaintiff and ultimately caused plaintiff to have a punctured lung, cracked left back scapula,

- multiple permanent scars, a permanent hole in his left lung and respiratory dysfunction because of his assault.
- 31. Defendants Nunez and Qwadara Thomas deliberately and or recklessly failed to protect the Plaintiff when they knew that leaving the control room of the cell block unattended would cause the plaintiff to be viciously assaulted.
- 32. As a result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference, the plaintiff was put in fear of his safety and subjected to unjustified physical abuse and sustained severe and significant physical injuries.
- 33. As a result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference, the plaintiff sustained severe and significant physical injuries because of the inmate assault and entitles Plaintiff to relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

PLAINTIFF MICHAEL ZIDOR vs. DEFENDANTS COMMISSIONER BLANCHE CARNEY, COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL McGINNIS, CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY McGOWAN, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN and THE PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS FAILURE TO TRAIN AND SUPERVISE UNDER MONELL

- 34. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference.
- 35. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan as a matter of policy and practice failed to discipline, train or otherwise sanction correctional officers who violate the rights of prisoners by failing to intervene and protect inmates, including the Plaintiff's, thus encouraging Defendants Nunez and Thomas, in this case to engage in the unlawful and actionable conduct described above.
- 36. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan, as a further matter of policy and practice failed to train properly its correctional officers in the

classification of inmates and the intervention to protect inmates from assaults, including defendants Nunez and Thomas, in this case, with respect to the constitutional, statutory and departmental expectations of their authority including intervening when inmates are assaulted by other inmates.

- 37. At all times herein mentioned, the defendants Nunez and Thomas were acting as the agents, servants and/or employees of the defendant Philadelphia Department of Prisons and therefore, their acts are attributable to defendants of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons.
- 38. Defendant Philadelphia Department of Prisons was on actual notice of a need to train, supervise, discipline or terminate its defendants Nunez, Thomas, Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan as prior to the incident in question as other similar incidents of being deliberately indifferent to prison staff leaving control room operations completely unstaffed and inmate on inmate assaults have occurred in the past involving defendants in their failing to properly classify inmates and protect them from inmate assaults.
- 39. Factually, it is widely known that inmate assaults are rampant at the Philadelphia Department of Corrections prisons as the Philadelphia Media has reported numerous stories of Philadelphia Correctional Officers deliberately failing to intervene and protect inmates from inmate assaults in this case and at other times with other inmates. https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-prison-chief-resigns-blanche-carney/ https://www.inquirer.com/crime/philadelphia-prisons-blanche-carnet-retires-20240325.html
- 40. It is believed that defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James

McGowan were on actual notice of the above-mentioned incidents of inmate assaults and deliberately or indifferently did nothing to stop, intervene or change their inmate classification or protection policies to prevent further assaults.

COUNT IV PLAINTIFF MICHAEL ZIDOR vs. DEFENDANTS CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS NUNEZ, QWADARA THOMAS, COMMISSIONER BLANCHE CARNEY, COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL McGINNIS, CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY McGOWAN and DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 41. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference.
- 42. Defendants intentionally and deliberately inflicted emotional distress on Plaintiff, by abusing the lawful process by unlawful purpose, or by violating Plaintiff's constitutional rights, or by conspiring against him, or by interfering with Plaintiff's state civil rights by being deliberately indifferent with reckless disregard for Plaintiff's safety through policy and actions, or knew or should have known that emotional distress was the likely result of their conduct.
- 43. Defendants Nunez and Thomas' conduct was extreme and outrageous, beyond all possible bounds of decency and utterly intolerable in a civilized community as defendants Nunez and Thomas deliberately and recklessly allowed the plaintiff to be brutally assaulted by another inmate without intervening to stop the assault.
- 44. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan's conduct was extreme and outrageous, beyond all possible bounds of decency and utterly intolerable in a civilized community as defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan deliberately and recklessly allowed the plaintiff to be brutally assaulted by another inmate because their deliberate and reckless classification

system repeatedly encouraged inmate on inmate assaults by putting violent inmates in the same cells and showers with non-violent inmates and encouraging correctional officers to ignore those assaults.

- 45. The actions of all the defendants were the cause of plaintiff's distress.
- 46. The emotional distress sustained by the plaintiff was severe and of a nature that no reasonable person could be expected to endure.
- 47. As a result of the Defendants' extreme and outrageous conduct described above, the plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer mental pain and anguish, severe emotional trauma, embarrassment, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, and humiliation.

<u>COUNT V</u> <u>PLAINTIFF MICHAEL ZIDOR vs. DEFENDANTS COMMISSIONER BLANCHE</u> <u>CARNEY, COMMISSIONER LOUIS GIORLA, COMMISSIONER MICHAEL</u> <u>McGINNIS, CHIEF OF STAFF KATHY McGOWAN and DIRECTOR OF</u>

OPERATIONS JAMES McGOWAN CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE THE FEDERAL AND STATE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE PLAINTIFF

- 48. The allegations contained above are incorporated by reference.
- 49. The above-described actions constitute violations by the above-named Defendants, who conspired among themselves to deprive the Plaintiff of his state and constitutional rights.
- 50. All the above-named plaintiffs knew that numerous inmate assaults were occurring in the prison and had all seen numerous videos of inmate assaults together in conferences, staff meetings and conversations but chose to deliberately and recklessly ignore the inmate violence which occurred on a daily basis. Defendants Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan chose to deliberately ignore the ongoing and daily inmate on inmate violence in the prison that they supervised and together crafted a policy that made reckless indifference to inmate assaults ubiquitous.

51. During Plaintiff's assault and physical attack, Defendants Nunez and Thomas were physically present and verbally conspired to watch the assault of Plaintiff by the inmate assailants and verbally conspired to encourage the beating of Plaintiff, and/or did absolutely nothing to prevent, protect or intervene in the attack and assault of the Plaintiff.

DAMAGES

- 52. The above paragraphs are repeated and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.
- 53. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered severe physical injuries and mental anguish in the past and future and was deprived of his State and Federal Constitutional Rights as aforementioned and will suffer economic damages and was otherwise damaged.
- 54. The incident has also resulted in injuries requiring psychological attention and Plaintiff has suffered and will suffer in the future from permanent residuals.

ATTORNEY FEES

55. It was necessary for the Plaintiff to hire an undersigned attorney to file this lawsuit. Upon judgment Plaintiff is entitled to an award of attorney fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. § 1988 (b).

PRAYER

- 56. The above paragraphs are repeated and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.
- 57. Wherefore, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants Nunez, Thomas, Carney, Giorla, McGinnis, Kathy McGowan and James McGowan individually, jointly and/or in

- the alternative for: compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney fees, interest and costs of suit and such relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.
- 58. Wherefore, the Plaintiff demands judgment against The Philadelphia Department of Prisons, individually, jointly and/or in the alternative for: compensatory damages, attorney fees, interest and costs of suit and such relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

PLAINTIFF'S DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

59. Plaintiff asserts his rights under the Seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and demands, in accordance with the Federal Rule 38, a trial by jury on all issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Oxman, Esquire Attomey for Plaintiff

VERIFICATION

The undersigned hereby verifies that the within document is based on first-hand information and on information furnished to counsel and obtained by him in the course of this lawsuit. The language of the document is that of counsel and not of the affiant. To the extent that the contents of the document are based on information furnished to counsel and obtained by him during the course of this lawsuit, affiant has relied upon counsel in taking this verification. All statements are founded upon reasonable belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. Section 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Mlevel Ble